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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT
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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

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COUNTRY

Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR.

16 November 1951

SUBJECT

The Hennigsdorf Steel Plant

NO. OF PAGES

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PLACE
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NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. Early in 1950 the Stahl-und Walzwerk in Hennigsdorf (W 53/Z 76) had four open-hearth furnaces in operation with a daily output of 80 tons each. Another open-hearth furnace is scheduled to be completed and put into operation by 1 May 1951. (1)
2. One open-hearth furnace had to shut down three times in succession between August and September 1950. These failures of the furnaces were said to have been caused by the bad quality of the furnace lining. Another of the open-hearth furnaces was shut down for three days because of an explosion of live ammunition left in the scrap used for the charge. This explosion occurred on 16 October 1950. On 24 October 1950 the same open-hearth furnace met with another accident when slag shattered the dolomite lining of the hearth, cutting it toward the gas chambers. The repair work lasted about five weeks. The ingot steel production quota could not therefore be met during the period from August to November 1950. (2)
3. The preliminary work for the construction of a new steel-casting foundry was completed in November 1950.

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Comment:

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- (1) The plant is an enterprise of the VVB (Z) Vesta. Until 1945 it was an enterprise of the Friedrich Flick Central German Steelworks and Rolling Mill Corporation in Brandenburg. Comment: As of 5 February 1951, the plant was reported as being under the direct control of the HV Metallurgie of the Ministry for Heavy Industry.)
- (2) After the expansion work is completed the annual production target of the plant is set at 200,000 tons of ingot steel, 6,000 tons of steel castings, and 250,000 tons of rolled products including 30,000 tons of wire. However, according to the present schedule only 189,000 tons of ingot steel and 145,000 tons of rolled steel can be produced in 1951, and 200,000 tons of ingot steel and 160,000 tons of rolled steel in 1952.

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- (4) The "Eisenforschungsinstitut Hennigsdorf" (Iron Research Institute Hennigsdorf) was set up in the plant as a central research point for the entire metallurgical industry of the Russian Zone. Professor Dr. Eduard Maurer was assigned as manager of the institute. Before the war Professor Maurer was employed in the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Iron Research in Dusseldorf. He is the inventor of the stainless V2a steel.

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